

REMARKS

In the above-identified Office Action all of the claims were rejected again under 35 U.S.C. 103(a), as being obvious in view of the disclosure of the previously cited Okazaki patent. In response, the claims have all been amended in a manner that is believed to provide patentable distinction over the Okazaki patent for the reasons set forth below.

In accordance with the amended claims, an input image in which a change is detected is stored as a reference image, for which change detection is new, in a new reference image storage unit. In this regard, the newly added requirements of the claims are supported respectively by "input image storage unit 14" and "newest change image storage unit 15" in Fig. 2.

Referring now to differences between the present invention and the cited Okazaki reference, Okazaki discloses a moving image retrieving apparatus which detects a scene change, calculates a characteristic amount of each scene, and stores the calculated characteristic amounts as well as moving images in a storage unit. The storage 14 in Fig. 1 of Okazaki is referred to in the Office Action as corresponding to a second storage unit (amended as a new reference image signal storage unit at this time) of the present invention. However, the storage 14 of Okazaki merely stores a characteristic amount of a moving image as well as the relevant moving image, but, unlike the present invention, does not store a reference image of which change detection is new.

Accordingly, it is believed that the present invention as set forth in amended independent Claims 29-31 and 35-40 is not disclosed or suggested by Okazaki.

For these various reasons it is believed that the application is now allowable,
wherefore the issuance of a Notice of Allowance is solicited.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge fees or credit overpayment to
Deposit Account No. 50-3939.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our New York office by
telephone at (212) 218-2100. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our
below listed address.

Respectfully submitted,

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